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PRESS RELEASE

USAID Celebrates 15th Anniversary of Partnership with Kyrgyzstan

Bishkek, December 4, 2008: Kyrgyz government representatives, donors, local and international companies, and civil society leaders celebrate the 15th anniversary of USAID partnership with Kyrgyzstan in a gathering at the A. Maldybaev Opera and Ballet Theater.

"Through USAID, the American people have provided over \$400 million dollars worth of assistance over these past 15 years in support of reforms in a wide range of sectors. I know that this assistance has been felt in so many areas of Kyrgyz society, from auctions of the agricultural Land Reserve Fund to healthcare policy, from the development of vibrant non-governmental organizations to fiscal decentralization, and in many other areas," said Charge d'Affairs of the U.S. Embassy, Earle D. Litzenberger.

First Vice-Prime Minister of Kyrgyz Republic, Iskenderbek Aidaraliev noted that "this cooperation is important for Kyrgyzstan's economy, by improving its competitiveness, achieving stable economic development, and implementing all tasks defined by the President of the Kyrgyz Republic for the Government, in the Country's Development Strategy."

William Frej, USAID/CAR Regional Mission Director and Pat Shapiro, USAID Country Representative in the Kyrgyz Republic provided an overview of 15 years of partnership, while USAID partners and beneficiaries reiterated USAID's role in providing assistance in the health care, education, and agricultural sectors. Ainura Ibraimova, WHO and USAID/ZdravPlus Project Consultant, Natalia Dyomina, Director of Shopokov School # 1, and Ranohan Nasredinova, Consultant of the USAID Land Reform and Market Development Project II, gave concrete examples of successful cooperation between the United States and the Kyrgyz Republic.

Guests saw a video highlighting 15 years of collaboration and visited exhibits of USAID projects presented by implementing partners that showcased work produced with USAID assistance.

In the economic sector, USAID programs promote broad-based economic growth and macroeconomic policy reforms related to finance, trade, land, and the fiscal sector, as well as measures to improve the business environment. Targeted assistance has been provided in the agriculture and energy sectors, which are critical to the sustained growth of the Kyrgyz economy. USAID has also contributed to the development of a stable banking sector and a thriving microfinance sector, which is vital to the development of small-and medium-size businesses. USAID has also worked with local governments and communities to improve human and institutional capacity, and to provide opportunities for local economic development.

Support for health sector reforms focuses on enhancing access and improving the quality of medical care, as well as treatment and prevention of infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis. To strengthen the education sector, USAID facilitates teacher training, curriculum development, testing, and improvements in the management of the education system.

USAID funding also supports the expansion of civil society and the rule of law. Programs focus on civic education for youth, professional media development, training for civil society organizations, continuous

education of judges, and the development of transparency of the court system. Within the Millennium Challenge Account Threshold Program, USAID provides assistance in making the judiciary more independent and effective, improving the transparency of law enforcement bodies, and strengthening the criminal justice system through institutional reform and improving operational capacity.

Агентство содействовало введению программы гражданского образования для молодежи, профессиональному развитию местных СМИ и организаций гражданского общества, непрерывному образованию судей и развитию прозрачности судебной системы в Кыргызстане. В рамках Пороговой программы счета «Вызова тысячелетия» USAID оказывает помощь в содействии независимости и эффективности судебных органов, улучшении прозрачности правоохранительных органов и усилении уголовного судопроизводства.

За прошедшие 15 лет американский народ через USAID предоставил более 400 млн долларов США на развитие экономики, демократических институтов, реформирование сектора здравоохранения и образования.

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